

REMARKS

The amendments to claim 1 are supported on page 16 of the specification.

Minor editorial revisions were made to claims 5 to 8.

New claims 11 and 16 are supported in the specification on page 17, lines 2 to 4.

New claim 12 is supported in the specification on page 10, lines 6 to 8; page 13, lines 10 to 12; and the sentence bridging pages 18 and 19.

New claims 13 to 15 are supported in the specification on page 18, lines 17 to 20.

New claim 17 recites the features of claim 5.

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 1 to 10 are free of any prior art rejections (see item nos. 4 and 5 at the middle of page 3 of the Office Action).

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons stated in item no. 3 pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 1 was amended to avoid the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claims comply with all the requirements of 35 USC 112.

Withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

An INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT is being filed concomitantly herewith.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: (1) PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
(2) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT